

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE

Texas A&M
AgriLife Extension Service,
Walker County

Visit us on Facebook at:
WalkerCo TxAgrilife
Or on the web at:
<http://walker.agrilife.org>



Agricultural Education Events & News

(April Edition 2013)

Don't miss out on these educational programs!

Cattle Grazing Management & Feral Hogs in the Trinity River Basin (2.0 hrs. CEUs -1.5 hr. gen & .5 L&R)

Event Date: 3/27/2013 Wednesday
(1:00 PM – 4:00 PM)

***At the Walker County Extension Office (102 Tam Rd & Highway 75 N.
Huntsville TX)**

RSVP will be required: Contact Blake Alldredge at (979) 845-0916
for more information or register online at
<http://nrt.tamu.edu/schedule>

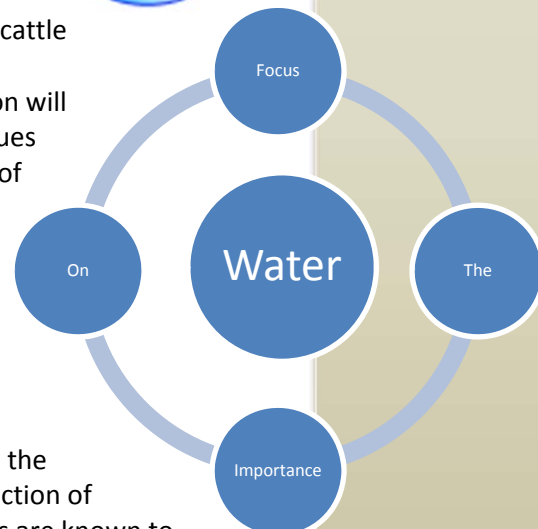
CORSICANA/HUNTSVILLE/ATHENS — Trinity Waters and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be hosting a third and final round of workshops for landowners in the Trinity River basin area, coordinators said.

"The focus will be on beef cattle production and feral hog control so producers can improve profitability, reduce hog damage and benefit area water resources," said Blake Alldredge, AgriLife Extension associate and education and outreach coordinator for Trinity Waters, College Station. Alldredge said Texas has suffered from a multi-year drought that has caused many difficulties for the state's cattle industry.

"In the workshops, Dr. Larry Redmon of AgriLife Extension will discuss stocking rates and pasture management techniques that will help producers manage their land during times of drought," he said. "Redmon will also discuss ways cattle producers can protect the water quality in their area through the innovative Lone Star Healthy Streams program."

While drought has negatively affected cattle numbers statewide, the feral hog population has continued to increase, Alldredge noted.

"Feral hogs cause an estimated \$52 million in damage to the agriculture industry in Texas every year, including destruction of pastures and crop fields," he said. "In addition, feral hogs are known to



In This Issue:

Local educational programs

*March 27th Cattle Grazing
Management & Feral Hogs*

April 11th Plant ID Workshop

*April 30th Lone Star Healthy
Streams*

*May 23rd Pond & Aquatic
Resource Management program*

May 30th Feral Hog Workshop

Area/Regional educational programs

*April 12th Online Webinar –
Starting an Urban Farm*

More Local Events

*April 6, 2013 Annual Electronic
Recycling Day*

*May-Walker Co Farmers Market
Organizational Meeting*

be a contributor to the bacterial impairments that affect our water bodies across the state.” He said an AgriLife Extension wildlife expert will discuss basic biology, laws, regulations and techniques for controlling hogs. Also, a representative from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service will update participants on the status of financial assistance programs funded through the Farm Bill.

Alldredge said this third round of informational workshops for area landowners is provided at no cost and is open to the public. Two hours of continuing education units –1.5 general, 0.5 laws and regulations – will be available for participants as well.

To RSVP for one of the workshops, contact Alldredge at 979-845-0916 or balldredge@tamu.edu, or go to <http://nrt.tamu.edu/schedule> and search for “Cooperative Conservation in the Trinity River Basin.”

Alldredge said previous workshops provided basic information on what watersheds are and how they function, how the state manages water quality in creeks and rivers, and provided some tools landowners can use to help efficiently manage their land. Presentations from these workshops may be found on the AgriLife Extension wildlife and fisheries unit YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/WFSCAgriLife>.

The Building Partnerships for Cooperative Conservation in the Trinity River Basin project is managed by the Texas Water Resources Institute and funded by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board through a Clean Water Act grant from the U.S Environmental Protection Agency.

Starting an Urban Farm: SAHC Online Webinar

Event Date: Friday, April 12, 2013

Time 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Location: Online

Program website for more information & other programs can be accessed via the following link <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/smallacreage/seminars/>

Sponsored by the Horticultural Science & Benz School of Floral Design

For additional information, contact Joe Masabni, Extension Vegetable Specialist at (979).845.8562 or jmasabni@ag.tamu.edu

Feral Hog Control & Distribution Assessment, (+) Educational Trainings & Technical Guidance

Feral hogs cause an estimated \$52 million of damage to agriculture annually in Texas and they are increasing in numbers across the state. They like to wallow in stream systems leading to sediment and bacteria entering our waterways.



To assess feral hog distribution and how landowners are managing to reduce hog, Texas AgriLife Extension has developed a statewide reporting system <http://feralhogreports.tamu.edu> . This system is an effective tool that tracks feral hog sightings and management efforts. Please share this new reporting tool with landowners and members of the public you interact with during your daily tasks.

There are two types of reporting on the website, one for landowners and another for the general public. We would like landowners to join us in gathering information on their feral hog reduction efforts through our secured login system. Information provided by individuals will be kept private. This information will

be used as leverage to bring additional resources (grant dollars) in the fight against feral hogs. Last month, we introduced Mark Tyson, our new AgriLife Extension Associate who is working on the Feral Hog Project. Landowners can also provide Mark a written report, and he would be glad to enter the data for them. The public report allows members of the public to enter data on their feral hog observations while driving or conducting other activities.

Mark can offer assistance through landowner visits, providing recommendations on ways to control feral hogs, as well as giving presentations to groups such as members of the public or landowners educating them on methods of feral hog control. In addition, Mark is working on writing several publications that will provide valuable information on controlling damage caused by feral hogs.

Texas AgriLife Extension has also developed a wide range of information and publications concerning feral hogs which can be found at:

<http://plumcreek.tamu.edu/feral-hogs>

<http://feralhogs.tamu.edu/publications>

http://www.extension.org/feral_hogs

Please feel free to contact Mark if you need more information or have questions about feral hogs.

Mark Tyson, M.S.

Extension Associate

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

(979) 845-4698

Mark.Tyson@ag.tamu.edu

These resources are provided through a Clean Water Act Section 319(h) nonpoint source grant from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

6th Annual Electronic Recycling Day

Event Date: April 6, 2013

At the City of Huntsville Disposal-Recycling Facility 590 I-45 North

Acceptable Items: Laptops/Notebooks, Printers/Scanners, Copiers, Projectors, Plasma Screens/LCD/LED Screens, Computer Accessories, Telecommunication/Networking Equipment, Stereos, Radios, Cell Phones/Pagers/Cameras, PDA/Palm Pilots, Rechargeable Batteries, Vehicle Batteries.

For more information, please call Solid Waste & recycling Services at 936-294-5743.

Plant ID Workshop

Event Date: April 11, 2013

Huntsville, TX (contact the Extension Office 936 435-2426 for directions)

(1:00 PM -4:30 PM)

\$10.00 Registration Fee

Can you correctly name that plant you are looking at?

Landowners & Natural Resource Managers are invited to attend this Plant Identification Workshop. Wear comfortable shoes! We will be walking the pastures and tree lines as we ID native and introduced plants. Dr. Barron Rector, Extension Range Specialist, will guide us through the world we have around us. This Field Based Workshop will include CEU credits for TDA Pesticide Applicators.



Lone Star Healthy Streams Workshop

Event Date: April 30, 2013

Walker County Extension Office

RSVP requested 936-435-2426

(6:30 PM -8:30 PM)

\$10.00 Registration Fee

Water quality is a continuing item of concern for everybody living in Texas. This workshop to be held in Huntsville on April 30th will help introduce agricultural landowners to the means and methods of protecting our valuable water resources. Additional information written by Kathryn Boutwell: According to Dr. Larry Redmon, leader of the LSHS program, livestock producers can more easily make wise choices for reducing pollution originating on their operations if they know the benefits of clean water to agricultural operations, the current laws and policies on water quality, the ways that bacteria can enter water, and the range of solutions that are available for them to reduce water quality problems. The LSHS program is designed to educate landowners on these topics.

Through their partnership, TWRI, AgriLife Research and AgriLife Extension have successfully completed the first stage of the LSHS program and have begun the second.

Stage I: Stage I focused on evaluating best management practices (BMPs) designed to reduce bacterial contamination of water bodies, said Dr. Kevin Wagner, TWRI's associate director. This research, led by Wagner, was carried out at both private ranches and established research centers such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's field site in Riesel, the Texas A&M University Department of Animal Science's Beef Cattle Systems Center near College Station, and the Welder Wildlife Refuge in Sinton.

"At these ranches and research centers, both traditional and novel, or innovative, BMPs were implemented and their effectiveness evaluated so that the most successful techniques could be identified," Wagner said. "This study provided us with a good idea of which management techniques worked to reduce bacteria levels and which didn't.

"We highly recommend rotational grazing," Wagner said. The method requires moving livestock from one area to another over time. This prevents fecal material from accumulating in creek pastures during rainy seasons and ending up in streams.

"Results showed that when alternative off-stream water was provided, the amount of time cattle spent in the creek was reduced 43 percent," Wagner said.



Alternate water sources allow animals to drink at facilities away from a stream, reducing the amount of feces that enter the stream.

He said that while Stage I is technically over, research will continue to explore new BMP techniques that will benefit both streams and landowners.

Stage II: Based on information gathered in Stage I, groups of research scientists, resource conservation agencies and producers collaborated to compile the LSHS manuals, which include BMPs identified in Stage I.

“Stage II focuses on education,” said Jennifer Peterson, LSHS statewide coordinator. “For each bacterial contributor, we created a manual and a presentation outlining BMPs that are operation- specific.”

The program published manuals for poultry, beef cattle, feral hogs, horses and dairy cattle. Each manual has been endorsed by natural resource agencies and industry associations. For example, the dairy cattle program has been endorsed by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Texas Association of Dairymen. The manuals are available both online and in hard copy.

***Interested in joining
the Walker County
Farmers Market?***



***Contact the Walker
County Texas AgriLife
Extension Office at
(936) 435-2426.***

***The organizational
meeting for 2013 will
be held in early May.***

“The management practices identified in the Lone Star Healthy Streams manuals are generally practices that can both reduce nonpoint source contributions to lakes and streams and improve an operation’s bottom line,” said Jay Bragg, associate director of commodity and regulatory activities at the Texas Farm Bureau.

The manuals include information about Texas water quality and sources of financial assistance for BMP implementation. Although not the focus of the LSHS program, the BMPs listed in the manuals will allow livestock owners and landowners to further protect Texas waterways from runoff that contains sediments, nutrients and pesticides. Examples of BMPs found in the manuals include rotational grazing and provisions for alternate water supplies for livestock.

“Our next step is a statewide educational program that educates livestock producers and landowners about these best management practices,” Peterson said.

“We recently finished writing and publishing our curriculum and have also developed an online course for the program,” she said. “We are in the process of scheduling programs around the state.” In the coming months, programs will be made available to landowners in areas that have identified the source of bacterial impairment in their watershed. AgriLife Extension will conduct programs for landowners on BMP implementation.

“The agricultural community can choose to regulate itself through stewardship and conservation practices rather than have the solutions determined by those who may not understand the industry,” Redmon said. “It is important for landowners to become involved and make a difference in protecting our state’s most vital resource.”

The LSHS program has received support on the importance of education and BMP implementation not only from scientists, but also from farmers and landowners. “Local demonstration projects may be the most effective way to demonstrate the benefits of these management practices,” Bragg said.

“I think some good information came from the Lone Star Healthy Streams project—given they wrote a prescription for the entire state and the state is so diverse,” Scrivner said.

Additional program partners include the Independent Cattleman’s Association of Texas, Texas and Southwest Cattle Raisers Association, Texas Wildlife Association, Texas Association of Dairymen, Texas Horse, Texas Poultry Federation, Texas Pork Producers Association and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Pond & Aquatic Resources Management Program

Event Date May 23, 2013

Walker County AgriLife Extension Office (Huntsville, TX)

6:30 PM

\$10.00 Registration Fee

What kind of shape are your farm impoundments in? The past two summers have been hard on most ponds and lakes in East Texas. Although a number have refilled during 2012, there are still quite a few that are in need of a little extra help and restocking. If you are in this situation, here is a chance to receive valuable recommendations and tips for getting your farm impoundments productive once again. Pond & Lake owners will be able to utilize information from this educational program to revitalize their impoundments.

Topics to be covered by Peter Woods, Extension Fisheries Specialist include:

- Restocking
- Structure
- Pond infrastructure
- Minimization of aquatic weed growth, ID of weeds, and control options

CEU’s (1 IPM, 1 General) will be provided for TDA Pesticide Applicators; additional program information is available from the Walker County, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at (936) 435-2426.



Feral Hog Workshop..

Event Date: May 30, 2013

Walker Co Texas AgriLife Office (Huntsville, TX)

6:30 PM

\$10.00 Registration Fee

Pest, Resource, Destructive, Tasty- just a few words that describe people’s feelings toward feral hogs. In addition to the damage created in pastures, hay fields and even yards, there is growing concern about possible contamination to our streams and riparian systems.

There is news on the horizon for additional control options for feral hogs. In addition to research on new controls, research has been conducted to determine more effective methods of trapping these animals. If you are having problems enticing hogs into your old box style traps, you would benefit to learn about the newer recommendations for managing trapping systems.

This workshop will help bring you up to date on some of the items going on in the world of feral hogs. Landowners and resource managers will benefit from participation in this educational program.

Upcoming Webinars

Join online from (Noon – 1:00 PM) at <http://naturalresourcewebinars.tamu.edu/event-category/texas-range-webinar-series/>

Event Dates –

April 4, 2013: **Getting Ready to Treat Mesquite** with Dr. Megan Clayton

May 2, 2013: **How Herbicides Work-Modes of Action, Soil Activity, Half Life & Storage** with Dr. Paul Baumann

June 6, 2013: **Importance of Plant Identification** with Dr. Barron Rector

Texas Range Webinar Series

Presented by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Ecosystem Science and Management Unit

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Ecosystem Science and Management Extension Unit are conducting lunch-based webinars every month throughout 2013. The Texas Range Webinar Series will present a webinar every first Thursday of the month. The Ecosystem Science and Management Extension Unit is partnering with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at Texas A&M University. Information on Forestry and Natural Resource webinars will be available on our website.

If you have questions or would like more information regarding Extension Educational Programs, call us at (936) 435-2426.

Visit us on Facebook at:
WalkerCo TxAgriLife
Or on the web at:
<http://walker.agrilife.org>

The logo for Texas A&M AgriLife. It features the words "TEXAS A&M" in a dark red, serif font above the word "AGRI LIFE" in a larger, grey, serif font. The "A" in "AGRI" is significantly larger and overlaps the "M" in "A&M".

Provisions from the American Disability Act will be considered when planning educational programs and activities. Please notify the Walker County Extension Office if you plan on attending an Extension Educational program and need specialized services. Notification of at least three to five days in advance is needed, so that we may have ample time to acquire resources needed to meet your needs. Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is implied.

Reggie Lepley

Reggie Lepley,
County Extension Agent – Agriculture & Natural Resources
Walker County
(936) 435-2426